

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 remain present in this application.

The specification and claim 1 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim for Foreign Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicant's claim for priority, but indicated that priority cannot be claimed because the present application was filed more than twelve (12) months after the Taiwanese priority application. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect.

The present application claims priority of Taiwan Appl. No. 092117850, filed on June 30, 2003. It is noted that the present application was filed one month later, i.e., on July 30, 2003. Accordingly, the present application was timely filed within one year of the filing date of the foreign priority application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider his position and acknowledge the Applicant's claim for priority.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over SCHUMACHER, U.S. Patent 5,089,067, in view of SHIMAZAKI et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0236133 or YOSHIDA et

al., U.S. Patent 5,630,888. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 of the present application is characterized in that a forging alloy for a thin ingot pieces includes manganese less than 1.0 wt%. On the contrary, SCHUMACHER discloses a martensitic stainless steel including about 1.0-4.0 manganese. It is important to note that an advantage of a golf club head including Mn less than 1.0 wt% in the present application, instead of 1.0-4.0% Mn, as disclosed in SCHUMACHER, is that the weldability of the entire structure of the golf club head is improved. Also, it is important to note that an advantage of a thin ingot piece of a golf club head including Mn less than 1.0 wt% may increase malleability.

None of the references utilized by the Examiner teach or suggest a forging alloy for a thin ingot piece of a golf club head including manganese less than 1.0 wt%.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as well as its dependent claims 2-4, is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

KM/asc
3624-0121P

(Rev. 02/12/2004)